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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
CORONAVIRUS
INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

From 90, COVID-19 patients reduce to just 28 in Mysuru

- 62 cured of killer disease including four who were discharged today
- Many patients willing to donate their plasma for Convalescent Plasma Therapy

Mysuru, Apr. 30 (BCT)- Thanks to the concerted efforts of the District Administration, doctors, para-medical staff and all those who are associated in a united fight against the killer COVID-19, Mysuru has seen a steady decrease in the number of positive cases and at the same time, the number of patients getting cured too has seen an upward trend.

There are only 28 positive cases now who are being treated at the designated COVID-19 Hospital (District Hospital) on KRS Road. Of the total cumulative number of 90 cases, 62 have been cured of the disease and have been discharged from the Hospital.

At a time when positive cases are on the rise in places like Bengaluru, Belagavi, Vijayapura and Kalaburagi, Mysuru has shown remarkable improvement in curtailing the disease spread. This morning too, four patients have been discharged from the Hospital and they are P270, P321, P365 and P366.

If one takes a State-wide tally, there are 557 cumulative positive cases and of them, 90 are from Mysuru. But if one examines the cure rate, Mysuru stands on top as out of 223 patients who have been cured of the disease, 62 are from Mysuru.

A cop on security duty noting down details of entry and exit of ambulances at COVID Hospital in Mysuru this noon.

Plasma donation

In another interesting development, most of the patients who have been cured of the disease in Mysuru have expressed their willingness to donate their plasma to enable the cure of other patients.

According to Karnataka Medical Education Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar, Convalescent Plasma Therapy is very effective for patients in critical condition and the State has received permission for trials from the Centre.

The Directorate of Public Health under Union Government recently accorded permission for using plasma therapy for the treatment of COVID-19 patients in Karnataka. In this treatment, plasma cells from a COVID-19 patient who has recovered from the disease is transfused into a Coronavirus patient who is in critical condition by infusing plasma therapy. Plasma therapy can, however, be done only if the donor and recipient blood groups match.

Sources told *Star of Mysore* that except for three to four patients who have been cured of the disease, almost all of them have agreed to donate their plasma for Convalescent Plasma Therapy. A machine to separate plasma and other blood components is available at K.R. Hospital and can be used for this therapy after a bit of modernisation, sources added.

Holiday

Our offices will remain closed tomorrow on account of **May Day.** Hence, there will be no **online edition** of *Star of Mysore* dated **May 1, 2020.**

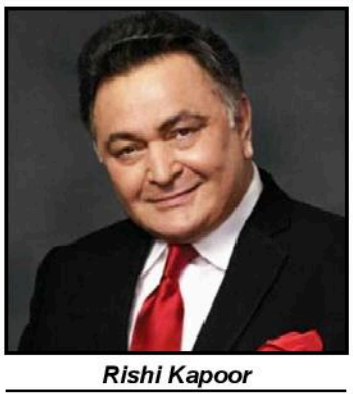
— Management

Veteran actor Rishi Kapoor passes away

Mumbai, Apr. 30 (UNI)- Just a day after versatile actor Irrfan Khan passed away, Bollywood lost another veteran actor as Rishi Kapoor bid his final goodbye in a Mumbai Hospital today 8.45 am.

The 67-year-old actor was admitted to Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital in Mumbai on Wednesday after he was not keeping well. Rishi Kapoor is survived by his wife Neetu and son Ranbir, both actors, and daughter Ridhima.

"Our dear Rishi Kapoor passed away peacefully at 8.45 am in hospital today after a two-year battle with leukaemia. The doctors and medical staff at the hospital said he kept them entertained to the last," the family said in a statement.



Rishi Kapoor

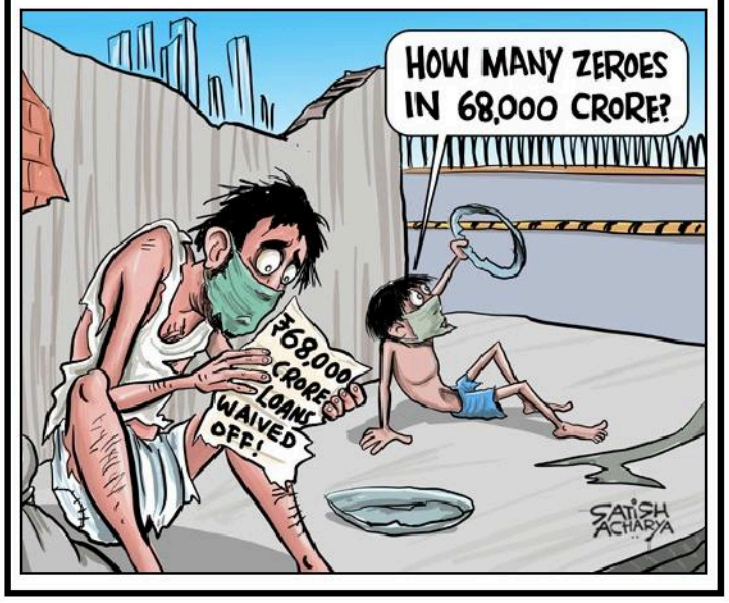
"He remained jovial and determined to live to the fullest right through two years of treatment across two continents. Family, friends, food and films remained his focus and everyone who met him during this time was amazed at how he did not let his illness get the better of him," the statement said.

Rishi Kapoor was diagnosed with cancer in 2018 following which he was in New York for nearly a year to undergo treatment. He returned to India in September last year. Post return to India, Kapoor's health has frequently been in focus. In February, Kapoor was hospitalised twice due to his health issues.

A third generation actor, Rishi Kapoor, was the second son of actor Raj Kapoor and grandson of Prithviraj Kapoor.

(See RISHI KAPOOR on page 6)

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya



COVID concerns derail horse-racing at MRC

Race Club authorities, doctors ensure good health of horses, animal care-takers

Mysuru, Apr. 30 (RK&BCT)- Amidst COVID-19 lockdown, the Mysore Race Club (MRC) has expressed concerns over the conduct of racing events. Races are big revenue-grossers for the MRC and before the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Club had planned big-ticket events.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, MRC Chairman Dr. N. Nithyanand Rao, who is also the Chairman of Turf Authorities of India, said that the MRC had planned an event on May 24. "There is uncertainty and it is difficult for the MRC to rake in revenues in the absence of races. As of now, we have decided to wait and watch," he said.

Similar sentiments were echoed by Dr. M.R. Jayanth, Incharge Secretary of MRC. "It is tough to run the MRC activities without revenue and it is definitely a matter of concern." A decision on whether to hold races will be taken at the MRC meetings, he added.

Health of horses

In view of potential health concerns for horses at their stables, the Mysore Race Club has adopted stringent precautionary measures to ensure their safety. In the absence of daily regimental exercises, horses are in danger of developing colic, an abdominal condition.

Colic is observed especially in thoroughbreds when the breeds are not exercised vigorously. It is a gastrointestinal condition that could prove fatal to horses.

Dr. C.V. Niranjan, Chief Veterinary Officer, MRC, told 'SOM' that all the 396 horses in the stables are well taken care of. "Though it is not possible to give full-fledged exercises, we ensure that they are exercised and made to run at least three to four hours a day so that they don't develop any health complications. Horses are made to perform exercises like lunging rings, galloping, riding exercise, trot, cantering, and regular walking.

On other measures, Dr. Niranjan said, "We are enforcing the lockdown measures and have barred the entry of outsiders. There is even restrictions on the movement of the boys who care for the horses and riding boys. They are allowed to go outside only if it is urgent otherwise they have no reason to go out as food, ration and medicines are being supplied to them in-house. All of them have been provided identity cards and their movements are regulated."

Lockdown puff: Cigarette prices on fire, thanks to black marketers

Mysuru, Apr. 30 (RK&BCT)- While the price of essential commodities are being monitored, liquor and cigarettes do not come under essential commodities, and so traders are charging exorbitant prices for the same. They are being sold at over 50-80 percent above the MRP.

In India most smokers buy cigarettes as singles or loose cigarettes but now only packs are sold forcing smokers to buy not only full packs but also at increased prices. Some smokers have even started buying cartons and are stocking them up in case of shortage.

A pack of king size cigarettes that used to cost Rs. 170 earlier is now being sold at anywhere between Rs. 250 and Rs. 300. Also, a packet of three paan masala that used to cost Rs. 10, is now being sold at Rs. 30 to Rs. 50. A bottle of liquor that used to cost Rs. 1,200 is being sold for a premium of Rs. 4,500 to Rs. 5,000. Some liquor shop owners had stocked the liquor at their homes and are selling them at high prices now.

Shortage is inevitable

The virus-induced lockdown has led to suspension of production by cigarette-makers and as a result, the shortage is inevitable. Street-side shops, including some grocer shops remain the major source when it comes to selling cigarettes. Major cigarette stockists and suppliers in Mysuru told 'Star of Mysore' that they have stopped bulk supply of cigarettes to the Mysuru market.

Then from where the smokers are getting to steal a drag? "There are some wholesale who still maintain heady stocks and also, boxes of cigarettes make their way into Mysuru from Bengaluru and Chennai in a corner of trucks that supply essential commodities. These stocks find their way into neighbourhood Kirana shops that steadily supply cigarettes to regular and 'trusted' customers. Of course, the prices are at a premium.

Gradual increase of prices

During the initial days of the lockdown the selling rate was around 10-15 percent (over MRP). Some of the supermarkets and grocery chains had sufficient stocks and some even displayed packets in locked glass shelves near the entrances.

Subsequently by the end of the first week, the prices inched up to 20-25 percent over MRP. By the third week, the prices went beyond 50 percent of the mark. Now, a smoker has to pay almost the double of MRP. "I had to shell out Rs. 300 for a pack of 10. This is so ridiculous," said a smoker. On the other hand, retail shopkeepers are blaming distributors and suppliers. "We are getting cigarettes at this cost. What can we do," asked a shopkeeper who was overcharging customers.

Plans to quit smoking

While some smokers are finding it hard to steal a drag as the lockdown has locked them in with their families, some others still are using the chance to kick the butt. For some regular smokers who now stay with their families, even buying cigarettes in black isn't an option as they can't even venture out of their houses. "I wanted to quit smoking since a long time but never had the opportunity. I have not smoked since Mar. 22. I will use this gap to quit puffing," said a youth who used to smoke five to six cigarettes a day.

Smokers argue that cigarettes are a source of anxiety-relief and stress-busting. For some who are vulnerable to depression and anxiety, quitting is even more difficult.

VOICE OF THE READER

Extension of Work From Home for ITians till July 31: A welcome move

Sir,

The recent move by the Government to extend Work From Home (WFH) for the employees of IT companies till July 31 is a welcome reprieve. The move will prevent further spread of the pandemic as most of the employees will be restricted to stay-at-home and work.

The WFH extension otherwise for IT industry will help to boost the productivity and achieve efficiency apart from easing traffic woes and reducing carbon emissions.

Apart from IT companies, even other industries that are dependent on software-related productivity should be given a priority for WFH option. The move to impose such a restriction should be examined on a long-term basis for the industries under non-essential services.

Also a focus on Government Departments that are dependent on IT work to provide non-essential services to the public should also be bought under WFH until the pandemic settles down. Extending WFH option for non-IT companies and select few Government Departments will further help to contain the spread of pandemic, achieve efficiency and productivity and contribute to reduced carbon footprint.

— Varun Dambal

Bengaluru
29.4.2020

108 Ambulance too plays major role

108 Ambulance service is also important in fight against Coronavirus. Special training has been given to the Ambulance staff.

— T. Narayana, District Manager, GVK-EMRI, Mysuru

Mysuru, Apr. 30 (RKB&BNR)- As we all know Doctors, Nurses, Medical Staff, Police, ASHA workers are among the Corona Warriors, who are involved actively in the fight against the pandemic. Added to the list is 108 Ambulance staff who too play a major role.

Mysuru, Mandya and Chamarajanagar districts, together have 66 '108 Ambulances' and only a few are used for Corona related works.

Drivers and Medical Staff are working in two shifts. They too are equipped with PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) as they are engaged in bringing Corona suspect or Positive patients to Quarantine Centres or Hospital. As they closely work with Corona patients, they too have to remain under quarantine, away from family members.

GVK-EMRI is in charge of 108 Ambulance Services. 108 Ambulance staff are working under the guidance of GVK-EMRI State Head Hanumantu, Regional Manager Yatish and Mysuru in-Charge Pramod.

SJCE rated third best among Engineering Colleges in State

Mysuru, Apr.30- The city's Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering (SJCE) attached to JSS Science and Technology University in city, has been rated as the third best among all Engineering Colleges in the State. The College also stands ninth in All-India rankings, according to a recent survey conducted by Educational World Magazine.

SJCE was started in the year 1963 and since then, it has seen tremendous growth imparting quality technical education to thousands of students. The college has a good record in campus placements, according to JSS Science and Technology University Registrar Prof. K.S. Lokesh.

Patient care: How much Government is spending?

Free treatment for virus-infected across the country

Mysuru, Apr. 30 (BCT)- Do you know how much the Karnataka Government or any other Government in India for that matter is spending to treat COVID-19 patients? Here is the break-up.

All the Coronavirus patients are treated free of cost in Government Hospitals across the country. In Mysuru, the patients are treated at the designated COVID-19 Hospital on KRS Road. No other private hospital has been authorised to treat virus-positive patients as of now.

What is the cost involved in treating a Coronavirus positive patient? Though it varies from patient to patient, depending upon the load of virus, related ailments, age and other factors, on an average, treatment of a normal virus carrier, without ventilators or other life-saving equipment, costs anywhere between Rs. 20,000 and 25,000 daily, doctors in the know of things told 'Star of Mysore.'

Though the treatment figures have not been made public yet, sources say that a 14-day treatment of a patient costs between Rs. 2,80,000 and Rs. 3,50,000.

Mysuru reported its very first confirmed positive case on Mar. 21. The patient had a travel history from Dubai. The patient has been cured now.

Since Mar. 21, there has been a steady rise in the number of positive patients in Mysuru and till yesterday, the cumulative number has touched 90 and 62 patients have been discharged so far as they have been cured of the killer disease. There are 28 active cases who are still undergoing treatment at the Hospital.

If Rs. 3,50,000 is spent on each patient for 14 days, the State Government would have spent Rs. 2,17,00,000 (Rupees two crore, 17 lakh) for 62 patients who have been discharged. So, the cumulative expenditure for 90 patients at the designated COVID-19 Hospital in Mysuru will touch Rs. 3,15,00,000 (Rupees three crore, 15 lakh).

Usually, patients are discharged after three to five consecutive tests turn negative. In some cases, tests will go up to eight or ten to get a definite result, say doctors.

That's not all, there is more to the expense chart. The swab test of a suspected patient costs Rs. 4,500. The price of the test kit alone is Rs. 3,000. If a person is tested or shows symptoms of COVID-19, he is supposed to travel only in an ambulance. Usually a hospital ambulance or a private one ferries him or her to the hospital at Govt. expense.

Once moved to the Isolation Ward, there are certain specifications for such patients: Each room should have a separate toilet and usually, no other beds are allowed and if the patient is aged or suffering from multiple complications, ventilator is necessary. Putting a patient in ventilator support is a costly affair and private hospitals charge between Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 50,000 per day for a ventilator.

Plus there are room charges and the cheapest will cost between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500 a day. All these expenses are borne by the Government. For a 100-bed hospital (Mysuru's designated COVID-19 Hospital has a capacity of 300 beds) at least 200 Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) kits are required to treat Coronavirus patients.

Doctors and nurses will have to change their kits every four hours and the PPE kits cannot be reused. If a doctor or a nurse are nursing a critically ill patient with a heavy load of virus, PPE kits have to be changed frequently. One standard PPE kits costs between Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 2,500 and even in a conservative estimate, PPE kits used by doctors and nursing staff at Mysuru Hospital run into lakhs of rupees.

Added to all these expenses are the cost of medicine. Though again the nature of medicine depends on the patient immunity and varies from person to person, antibiotics, anti-vitriol and other medicines cost between Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 daily for a patient, besides his food.

Estimated cost break-up

- Treatment of a normal COVID-19 carrier per day: Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 25,000
- Money spent on each patient for 14 days: Rs. 3,50,000
- Cost of treating 62 patients who have recovered in Mysuru so far: Rs. 2,17,00,000
- Cost of treating total number of 90 patients in Mysuru: Rs. 3,15,00,000
- Money spent on each swab test of suspected patient: Rs. 4,500
- Cost of each test kit: Rs. 3,000
- Cost of each PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) kit: Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,500
- Daily cost of antibiotics, anti-vitriol drugs: Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000

Decoding Mythology

Dr. Devdutt Pattanaik - Author, Speaker, Illustrator, Mythologist

A Family in a Temple

In a typical Hindu temple, we do not find just one image. We find multiple images. For many people, unfamiliar with Hindu tradition, this looks like polytheism. But for Hindus, these are various manifestations or expressions of the same divine principle, different facets of divinity expressed through a family unit. We see this at Shiva, Vishnu and Devi temples.

Shaivism deals with the hermit, Shiva, who becomes a householder. We always see the image of the hermit with his wife and two sons: Karthikeya, who makes us feel secure, and Ganesha, who nourishes us. So, our mundane needs — hunger and fear — are taken care of by the two sons of Shiva. The parents, Shiva and Shakti, represent more transcendental ideas of mind and body, or spirit and substance, purusha and prakriti. That is the Shiv Parivar. Before them is the Nandi bull and sometimes, Brahma, or Vishnu, in the form of a turtle.

Vaishnavism entails the worship of Lakshmi and Vishnu, particularly in South India. Vishnu is visualised either reclining Vishnu as in the Padmanabhaswamy temple of Kerala or Srirangam temples of Tamil Nadu, standing Vishnu with four arms as in Tirupati Devasthanam of Andhra. Lakshmi is worshipped alongside Vishnu but the image of Lakshmi is typically located in a separate shrine, thus establishing her autonomy, different from Shiva temples where the Goddess is paced symbolically around Shiva-linga as the yoni-trough, or her image stands on the side within the shrine.

Swami Narayan temples of Gujarat and Rajasthan are unique as they — Vishnu and Lakshmi — are worshipped together. We don't find any children of Vishnu in any Vishnu temple. Strange for a householder God, if one thinks about it. Around them instead are Garuda, Vishnu's mount, and maybe devotees like Narada and door-keepers like Jaya and Vijaya.

More commonly, Vishnu is worshipped in his mortal forms, Ram and Krishna. Ram is worshipped with his wife, Sita and sometimes they are accompanied by Hanuman, who serves them and Ram's brother, Lakshman. Krishna is often worshiped with his beloved, Radha. This is a little awkward because, for most people, the male and female form have to represent husband and wife. While this is true with Shiva and Parvati, and true with Ram and Sita, it is not true with Krishna and Radha. Radha emerges with the tantric traditions. Radha has a different husband and often people don't talk about it to avoid awkward explanations. Krishna and Radha are seen as transcendental husband and wife, for many. But in the tantric sense, their union represents a relationship which is not defined by custom, convention or by law. Unlike Shiva and Ram, who are seen as husbands, Krishna is seen as a beloved. Vishnu again is seen as a husband with Lakshmi by his side.

Devi or the Goddess is never shown with a consort or a husband by her side. She is shown as an independent, autonomous person. In traditional shrines, she is sometimes accompanied by a female companion as in Chamunda-Chotila shrines of Gujarat or Nanda-Sunanda shrines of Uttarakhand. Or, she is flanked by two males who are described as her sons, Bhairava or Hanuman, or Kala-Bhairav and Gora-Bhairva. She is often shown riding a tiger or a lion with multiple weapons in her hand. Although she is dressed as a bride, she holds weapons. The bride represents the fertility aspect of the Goddess and the weapons represent her protective side. Her male guardian-sons reinforces her autonomy.

[devdutt@devdutt.com

Intl. Astronomy Day on May 2

A day to celebrate the grandeur of Universe

Astronomy' is an incredible field of study for many reasons, not least of which is its accessibility to anyone who wanders out on a clear night and gazes skywards to the stars.

Man has evolved on a planet from which he could witness celestial phenomena like the motions of the Sun, Moon, Planets and Stars, the dramatic emergence of comets and meteors and the sporadic eclipsing of the Sun and the Moon.

The grandeur and essence of Astronomy is remembered and being celebrated as 'Astronomy Day' every year on May 2. On this day, professional and amateur astronomers all over the world bring the Universe to the public, through observing sessions, displays and information booths in malls, science centres and planetarium.

The RASC (The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada) joins groups from nearly 70 countries in celebrating International Astronomy Day. It is a fun and educational event for the public and astronomy enthusiasts alike. The dates for Astronomy Day this year are in the spring on May 2, 2020 and in the fall on October 5, 2020.

Doug Berger, former President of the Astronomical Association of Northern California, founded this annual event in 1973 as a high-profile way of drawing public attention to the science and the hobby through exhibits and activities at urban centres. Since then, the celebration has mushroomed in size and scope. Hundreds of astronomy clubs, observatories, museums, colleges and planetariums worldwide now host special family-oriented Astronomy Day events and festivities. Some organisations extend their activities over an entire week.

Astronomy Day eventuates sometime between mid April and mid May on a Saturday near or before the 1st quarter Moon. Astronomy Week was created to give sponsoring organisations a longer period of time to congregate special events. Some confined Astronomy Week celebrations have actually been longer than just one week.

This year, it is rejoiced on May 2 in many countries including India. The theme of Astronomy Day is 'Bringing Astronomy to the People.'

Astronomy Day events take place at hundreds of sites across India and United States. Internationally England, Canada, New Zealand, Finland, Sweden, Philippines, Argentina, Malaysia, New Guinea and many other countries have hosted Astronomy Day activities. Each location plans and executes events that work best for their local area.

Many high profiled astronomers like Galileo Galilie, Johannes Kepler, John Flamsteed, Tycho Brahe, Nicolas Copernicus, Issac Newton, George Biddel Airy and many others made overwhelming and intrusive discoveries. The salient discoveries like Big Bang theory, Steady-State theory, Cosmological conundrums, Spectroscopic analysis, HR-Diagrams, Albedo theory substantiated the legality of the subject.

The phase of the Moon is a critical feature in the preference of date for Astronomy Day. Other observing highlight of the preferred date is four planets are well placed in the evening sky — Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.

— Dr. S.A. Mohan Krishna
Observational Astronomer

No Monkey Fever in Mysuru

Lab reports confirm presence of Organo Phosphorus Compounds in samples of three dead monkeys

Mysuru, Apr. 30 (KS)- The Southern Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory of the Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals at Hebbal in Bengaluru, which tested the samples of three monkeys which were found dead under mysterious circumstances in an Ashram premises at Hadajana village in the taluk on Apr. 20, have confirmed the presence of Organo Phosphorus Compounds in viscera samples of the dead monkeys. Following the death of the monkeys, a complaint was lodged with the officials of the District Health and Family Welfare Department and the viscera of the dead monkeys was sent to the laboratory in Bengaluru on Apr. 22.

The lab, which tested the viscera samples on Apr. 23, has confirmed the presence of Organo Phosphorus Compounds (Organo Phosphorus Compounds are organic compounds containing phosphorus, which are used primarily in pest control and as an insecticide) in the samples, thus bringing an end to the speculations in the region that the monkeys might have died due to suspected Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD) or Monkey Fever. But the officials had suspected that the monkeys may have been poisoned or they would have eaten pesticide-laced fruits.

Disruption in water supply till May 2

Mysuru, Apr. 30- Owing to emergency maintenance work taken up at Belagola, water supply will be disrupted in the following areas from Apr. 30 to May 2:

Mandi Mohalla, Lashkar Mohalla, Yadavagiri, Bannimantap A, B and C-Layouts, Eranagere, Siddiqui Nagar, Shivarathreeshwara Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Bade Makan, Haleem Nagar, Devaraja Mohalla, Nazarbad Mohalla, Vidyaranyapuram, Vishweshwaranagar, Chamundipuram, Lourde Nagar, Meena Bazar,

Ward Numbers 8, 17, 18, 19, 23 to 27, 40, 41, 55, 60, 61, 62 and Metagalli and Hebbal Industrial Areas, according to a press release from VVWW Executive Engineer.

MUDA presents surplus budget of Rs.1.58 crore in COVID times

To send proposal to Government to auction 1,255 stray sites

Mysuru, Apr.30 (RK&DM)- Amid the nationwide COVID-19 lockdown, the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) presented a Rs.1.58 crore surplus budget (2020-21) on Tuesday last. MUDA Commissioner P.S. Kantharaju presented the budget after sending budget copies to all members and after getting it approved from Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, who is also the MUDA Chairman.

MUDA has estimated revenue earnings of Rs.324.50 crore and proposes to spend Rs.322.92 crore in 2020-21, which results in a surplus budget of Rs.1.58 crore. It had expected earnings of Rs.405.87 crore through various avenues in 2019-20 but succeeded in collecting only Rs.289.54 cr. from April to December 2019 and expects a revenue collection of Rs. 61.30 crore from January to March 2020.

Four new layouts

MUDA has planned four new residential layouts at Dhanagalli (47 acres), Jayapura Hobli, Daripura (20 acres) and Kalale in Kasaba Hobli of Nanjangud taluk (22 acres).

MUDA has also proposed to acquire a total of 20 acres and 12 guntas of land at Malalaadi and Chikkaharadanahalli in the taluk where farmers have shown interest in formation of layouts on 50:50 basis.

MUDA has completed JMC (measurement certificate) process in respect of Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar Second Stage, Shanthaveri Gopalagowda Nagar Second Stage, Swarna Jayantinagar, Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar Nagar, Lalithadrinagar Second Stage and R.T. Nagar Second Stage. Soon a proposal for forming these layouts will be sent to the Government and MUDA has set aside Rs.10 crore for these projects in the current year.

Truck terminals

Rs.20 lakh has been earmarked for preparation of DPR for construction of truck terminals at Mysuru-Bengaluru Road Ring Road junction and at Nagawala junction.

Bannimantap Grounds

The other plans include submission of a proposal to the Government regarding auction of 1,255 stray sites, development of Lingambudhi Lake and Hinkal Lake and augmentation of seating capacity at Bannimantap Parade Grounds from the existing 32,000 to 40,000. MUDA has earmarked Rs.1.5 crore this year for seating capacity augmentation, which is estimated to cost Rs.4.5 crore.

Drinking water project

Rs. 25 crore has been set aside for execution of the ambitious Hale Unduvadi drinking water project that is aimed at supplying regular drinking water from KRS backwaters to 92 villages and several localities of the city and completion of missing link works on the Ring Road, among others.

Villagers nab timber smuggler in Hunsur

Hunsur, Apr. 30 (KS)- Alert villagers have nabbed a person, who was attempting to smuggle timber from an agricultural field at Yashodhapura in Hunsur taluk and handed over the accused to the Forest Department officials.

The accused has been identified as Venkatesh of Yashodhapura, who was trying to smuggle teak logs worth Rs. 50,000 in a goods vehicle (KA-09-B-5027) from the agricultural field of one Gurappa. The villagers, who caught Venkatesh red-handed along with the timber, handed him over to Hunsur Zone Forest officials.

The seized goods vehicle in which accused Venkatesh was trying to smuggle timber.

The Forest officials, who have seized the goods vehicle, have registered a case.

Man arrested for fake Movement Pass

Car, mobile phone seized

Mysuru, Apr. 30 (KS)- N.R. Police have arrested a man for pasting a fake COVID-19 Movement Pass on his car and moving around in city. They have also seized the car and the mobile phone which was used to duplicate the pass.

The arrested is 57-year-old Nirmal Kumar Singhvi, a resident of R.S. Naidu Nagar here.

The N.R. Police, who were on routine inspection at Fountain Circle on Wednesday, stopped a Toyota Etios car (KA-02 MG- 0661) with the COVID-19 Movement Pass pasted on the wind screen.

When they checked the pass, the Police came to know that the pass was fake and arrested Nirmal Kumar.

On enquiry, Nirmal Kumar is said to have told the Police that he had duplicated the pass using the image sent by his friend on WhatsApp, took a colour print and pasted the same on his car as he wanted to go to his sister's house at Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.

DCP Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda and N.R. Sub-Division ACP Shivashankar supervised N.R. Inspector Shekar and staff in the nabbing and seizing operation.

Volunteers feed monkeys, cows, stray dogs at foothill

MLA S.A. Ramdas seen feeding a monkey on the steps leading to the top of Chamundi Hill this morning as others look on.

Mysuru, Apr. 30 (MTY&KS)- In order to provide food to monkeys, cows and stray dogs which were dependent on fruits and other food items provided by devotees, various organisations such as Namma Mysuru Foundation, Asare, *Let's Do It* Mysore and Mysuru Covid Care Team, provided fruits, green grass and dog food to the animals at the foot of Chamundi Hill (steps leading to hill temple) this morning.

Led by MLA S.A. Ramdas, the volunteers of these organisations fed 50 kg watermelon, 100 kg banana, 50 kg muskmelon, 50 kg papaya, 25 kg sapota, green grass and dog food to the animals.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramdas said that monkeys, cows and stray dogs were dependent on the food provided by the devotees who used to climb the steps to reach Sri Chamundeshwari Temple atop the hill. Due to lockdown, the temple has been closed and with no devotees coming to the temple, these animals have no other source of food and hence feeding these animals was taken up today.

Namma Mysuru Foundation Trustees Dasharath, Mallesh and Chandan, Let's Do It Mysore's B.S. Prashanth, Ramesh, Pavan, Srikanth, Manjunath, Sudhindra, Rakshit and others took part in the feeding drive.

Replica of COVID-19 virus

City artist Seema Sultan, who is working as art teacher in SVEI Public School, has created replica of COVID-19 virus using tomato and match stick to create awareness in people of Mysuru.

Bowled out...!

Mysuru, Apr. 30- Following a photo news in *SOM* e-paper dated 29.4.2020 titled ***"Boys... COVID is no fun!",*** Nazarbad Police Sub-Inspector Siddesh, who noticed boys, breaking lockdown guidelines and playing cricket early in the morning without even wearing masks, at Siddarthanagar in Mysuru, took cricket bat and wickets into his custody, distributed them masks and also made the youth do sit-ups and cleanse their hands with sanitisers.

YHAI Mysuru Unit serves breakfast to Pourakarmikas

The Mysuru unit of Youth Hostels Association of India (YHAI) distributed breakfast (ghee rice and chicken curry) to Pourakarmikas at work in Vontikoppal and Paduvarahalli (Vinayakanagar) in Mysuru on Tuesday. Last week, they had served breakfast (ghee rice and egg curry) to Pourakarmikas at Jayalakshmipuram and Gokulam. Next Tuesday, they will be serving breakfast to Pourakarmikas at Hebbal and Kumbarakoppal, said Unit President Ravi.

Railways maintain continuity in supply chain across the country

Rice being unloaded at Mysuru New Goods Terminal (MNGT) on Apr. 29

Mysuru, Apr.30- The role of Indian Railways in transportation of essential commodities, especially food grains, has been the single biggest factor in bridging the surplus and deficiency divide across the country during the lockdown.

The Railways have once again proven that the system indeed is the lifeline of the nation and more so in crisis situations. With truck movement having virtually collapsed, the Railways have been successful in maintaining continuity in supply chain despite many hurdles along the way principally brought about by the pandemic. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Railways (MoR) have announced a slew of measures for freight traffic during this period like non-levy of demurrage, wharfage and other ancillary charges, relaxations in distance-related conditions, reduction in the minimum number of wagons to avail concession in freight rates, non-levy of haulage charges for movement of empty containers, provision of the facility for registration of demand for wagons and issue of railway receipts electronically, etc. are all aimed at attracting more freight traffic.

Meticulous planning and constant coordination of Operations and Commercial Department officials of Mysuru Railway Division with the representatives of Food Corporation of India (FCI) at the highest level have greatly helped in efficient management of freight terminals at Mysuru, Shivamogga Town, Hassan, Chitradurga and others.

Since the lockdown, Mysuru Division has handled over 157 rakes of freight traffic comprising 5,825 wagons with an overall tonnage of 3.62 lakhs. While essential commodities like rice, wheat, potato seeds and petroleum products formed 60% of the total wagons handled, fertilizers, cement, coal and slag accounted for the rest with lion's share for rice at 2,539 wagons.

Aparna Garg, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), South Western Railway (SWR), Mysuru Division, has lauded the efforts of the dedicated staff of Mysuru Division for overcoming supply chain challenges thereby ensuring smooth movement of essential commodities.

She has instructed senior officials of the Division to provide all possible assistance to freight customers offering traffic of essential commodities so as to keep the supply chain intact.

She also underscored the importance of safety in train operations and called for a higher degree of vigil in maintenance of critical assets of the Railways like tracks, bridges, signalling and telecommunication equipment with zero tolerance for mishaps, according to a press release from Priya Shetty, Divisional Commercial Manager & PRO, Mysuru Division.

Rishi Kapoor

(Continued from page 1)

Rishi Kapoor began his career as a child artiste in 'Mera Naam Joker' (1970), for which he received the National Award. As an adult protagonist, his first film was 'Bobby' in 1973. Kapoor went on to act in over 90 films in the next four decades. He was last seen in '102 Not Out' co-starring Amitabh Bachchan, where the latter played Rishi Kapoor's centenarian father.

COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	4,762
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	4,511
Persons isolated in home for 14 days	:	223
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	28
Total samples tested	:	3,966
Samples found negative	:	3,876
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	90
Persons cured / discharged	:	62
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	18
Persons cured / discharged	:	4
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	557
Persons cured / discharged	:	223
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	21
Total active cases in India	:	23,651
Persons cured / discharged	:	8,324
Death toll so far in India	:	1,074

(Note: Figures till 5 pm)

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

The Mysuru District Emergency Control Room for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is functional 24x7 and has a team of operators and medical professionals who are working in shifts. All related queries will be handled professionally and necessary guidance will be provided to all callers, according to Mysuru DC.

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800
Karnataka Helpline number: 104
Central Helpline number:
011-23978046
Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

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